

The Communist Party of Great Britain

30th NATIONAL CONGRESS

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**Report of the Executive
Committee from
1st 1965 to July 1967**

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**to the 30th National Congress
of the Communist Party**

I. INTRODUCTION

THE 29th Congress stressed that the best interests of Britain demanded a complete break from those policies which the Tories had for long carried through in the interests of big business. The Labour Government, with a small majority, had been more and more retreating from its promises and failing to tackle the real problems. Our Congress saw the need for a big, united struggle to rout the Tories and compel the Labour Government to carry out policies in the best interests of the people.

The Party worked hard in the General Election to secure the defeat of the Tories and the return of Labour and Communist MPs.

But Mr. Wilson's Government has not fulfilled the people's hopes for improved living conditions and steps towards peace. Far from challenging the big monopolies, the Government has continued with policies which strengthen their interests. In face of the economic crisis, the Government has adopted the capitalist estimation of the causes. They have tried to overcome the problems by putting the burden on the people, through a succession of measures. There have been standstills or cuts in social services, a wage freeze, Government measures which have raised prices, the deliberate creation of unemployment.

Arms spending has been increased, not cut; desperate and costly attempts are being made to hang on to and extend the capitalist interests abroad. This has increased the economic dependence on the U.S., carrying with it increasing political subservience—the root cause of the continuing support for the U.S. vicious aggression in Vietnam.

Because of these wrong policies, the crisis of Britain continues and deepens—with stagnating production, a run down of some basic industry and a lag in new developments, continuing unemployment.

The growth of reaction in West Germany and Greece, the military take-overs in many African states, the continued racist, reactionary rule in South Africa and Rhodesia show the increasing dangers as long as imperialism is unchecked and encouraged. The Middle East crisis underlines the desperate efforts imperialism makes to hold on to its positions.

Mr. Wilson's betrayal of the electors' hopes has brought sharper and growing opposition at home and abroad.

The popular movement in Aden, the Middle East and Africa, spells the ultimate defeat of Mr. Wilson's attempt to preserve imperialist profits.

The movement condemning U.S. aggression in Vietnam and demanding an end to Wilson's support is growing. It has strengthened those MPs critical of the Government's position, and influenced more to take up a similar position.

The Communist Party has welcomed and helped all the efforts of the organisations who are supporting the Vietnamese people in their heroic resistance. We have issued pamphlets, leaflets, posters, organised meetings and all forms of activity. The YCL and youth have set the pace in this activity.

The opposition to all aspects of the Government's economic policy is spreading as more and more its character and effects are understood. The Prices and Incomes policy is strongly criticised in the factories and trade unions, because it attacks living standards and threatens the trade unions while the capitalist class interests are not curbed.

We can be proud of the part Communists have played in exposing the fallacious arguments of the right wing, explaining the dangers and supporting those sections of the workers resisting the wage freeze.

The attempt to get into the Common Market is now opposed by a majority of the people and a big group of the Parliamentary Labour Party. We are the only political party opposed to Britain's entry and our arguments put in pamphlets, leaflets and meetings, and our proposals for an alternative policy have assisted the broad front opposed to the Government's policy.

The struggles against the Government cuts is extending on housing, rents, education and health. Again members of our Party have played their part.

The anger and frustration at the wrong policies of the Labour Government have brought a sharp drop in its support and the loss of seats in local and Parliamentary by-elections. The danger of the Tories being able to stage a come-back is real.

The movement against the Government's wrong policies is influencing an important group in the Parliamentary Labour Party, big trade unions are involved, but the struggles tend to be isolated and not yet powerful enough to compel a change.

The Communist Party has been part of the great movement and made its distinctive contribution—suggesting policies and all the time stressing the need to unify and carry forward the activity. The *Morning Star* has given outstanding service to the British people—reporting on activity, promoting solidarity, giving its analysis and opinions and assisting the growth of the movement.

As the U.S. intensifies its aggression against the people of Vietnam and threatens peace everywhere, and the difficulties increase in Britain, the urgent task facing the whole labour movement is how to strengthen and unify the struggles and open up the alternative path for Britain.

The political situation has been changing very rapidly—new issues have suddenly arisen which have demanded activity. There have been many and widely varied calls on our branches and members.

The Executive Committee expresses its warm appreciation of all our members, especially those active in the branches, whose efforts have helped the big movement for alternative policies.

2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

THE constant concern of the EC has been the development of the mass movement and unity for the advance of the decisions of the 29th National Congress.

The dangers from events in Vietnam, West Germany, Rhodesia, Greece and other centres of imperialist reaction and intrigue is real and the EC has discussed many times how to alert and help the movement for peace. Special attention has been given to the need to develop the strongest opposition to the U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

There have been many discussions on the economic situation in Britain and the attacks on living standards through the Incomes Policy and other Government measures. Policies have been worked out, with the help of specialist committees, to assist the movement in its united struggle against wrong policies.

The EC considered the preparations for the March 1966 General Election, and then made an estimation of the results at a special meeting afterwards. The results of by-elections and local elections have been reviewed.

Careful consideration was given to the launching of the new *Morning Star* after wide consultation of all views. Constant attention has been given to the campaign to win new readers.

The urgent need to strengthen the Communist Party in numbers and organisation has been stressed. There have been discussions on building the Party, the issue of membership cards, training of leading forces, education plans, the organisation of the Party in Greater London.

The great possibilities for building our influence among young people have been recognised, with special efforts to assist the Young Communist League and the Communist students.

The Budget and finances of the Party have been checked and agreed.

In the 11 meetings up to July 1967, the EC has, with the help of specialists, adopted policies on a wide variety of questions. These include the British Common-

wealth, Traffic and Transport, Civil Liberties, the Common Market, Pensions, the Co-operative Movement, Questions of Ideology and Culture, Soviet Jewry.

There have been discussions on the position of the International Communist Movement.

Reports of the EC meetings and decisions are given to all meetings of the District Committees.

The EC assisted the District Congresses, sending a fraternal delegate who then made a report of the proceedings, which was published.

During the period since the last Congress, we have had many contacts and meetings with fraternal parties.

John Gollan, Jack Woddis and Betty Matthews represented our Party at the Conference on Security and Peace in Europe in April 1967. A delegation of James Reid, Cyril Morton and Vic Eddisford went to France and studied the work of the Party there. Delegations from the EC have been to Hungary and the G.D.R. Jack Woddis was present at the Tri-Continental Conference in Cuba in January 1966.

Delegates attended the Congresses of the Parties in the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, G.D.R., France and Cyprus. In addition, messages of greeting were sent to the Congresses of other brother Parties held during this period.

3. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

THE Executive Committee at its first meeting following the 29th National Congress, elected the following to be members of the Political Committee:

ALEXANDER, W.	MATTHEWS, G.
FOSTER, S.	RAMELSON, B.
GOLLAN, J.	REID, J.
JEFFERY, NORA	STANLEY, F.
MCLENNAN, G.	WAINWRIGHT, W.
MAHON, J.	WODDIS, J.

The Executive Committee elected the following Officers and Heads of Departments:

Chairman	F. STANLEY
General Secretary	J. GOLLAN
Assistant Secretary ..	W. ALEXANDER
Press and Publicity Dept. ..	NORA JEFFERY
Organisation	G. MCLENNAN
Industrial	B. RAMELSON
International	J. WODDIS
Women's	MARGARET HUNTER
Electoral	R. FALBER
Education	J. COHEN
National Treasurer ..	D. ELLWARD

The Electoral Department was set up, as decided by the National Congress, to assist in all ways the development of the electoral activity. The National Treasurer was appointed with the responsibility of strengthening the financial work of the Party at all levels.

The Political Committee has met weekly. It has prepared the items and material for the meetings of the Executive Committee and then has been responsible for carrying through their decisions and checking on progress.

Between meetings of the Executive, the Political Committee has decided on any immediate activity in light of the changing political situation, and issued public statements.

The Political Committee has kept under review the main activities of the Party and checked closely on the drive to extend the readership of the *Morning Star* and increase the membership of the Communist Party.

Each week a Letter has been sent to all EC and leading members in the Districts setting out the views and decisions of the Political Committee.

4. SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) International Affairs Committee

A PART from the months of August, and the General Election campaign of March 1966, the Committee has met regularly each month in the two years since the last Congress under the chairmanship of Jack Woddis. As usual, the discussions have covered a wide variety of subjects, ranging from Indonesia and the Indian elections to the military coup in Ghana, the situation in Egypt, and new developments in Africa.

There were two separate discussions on the conferences of the Commonwealth Premiers, two on the Caribbean, one on Israel, one on Negro rights in the United States, one on racialism in Britain, and one on world trade and aid. Reports were also given on the 23rd Congress of the CPSU, the European Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties, the Cairo Seminar on African problems, and the 1966 Congress of the Socialist International. Attendance has varied from 13 to 24, with an average of 16 out of a possible 30 meetings.

In addition to the International Affairs Committee there are the following advisory sub-committees of the International Department: the Middle East Committee, the Caribbean Committee, the Irish Committee and the National Jewish Committee. Efforts are now being made to re-establish the former advisory sub-committee on African affairs.

(b) Social Services Committee

THE Social Services Committee has met monthly under the chairmanship of Max Morris. It has considered all the developments on the main social services and new Government legislation.

The Committee prepared the Party's written evidence to the Royal Commission on Local Government. This document received a considerable amount of publicity in the municipal press and a number of bodies and persons concerned with local government have written requesting copies. The Committee was also responsible for the preparation of the Party's statement on Traffic and Transport. A guide to the Social Security Act was prepared and published in *Comment*.

The Committee organised in January 1967 a conference of Party workers in the National Health Services, attended by representatives from nearly every branch of the service, Party councillors and some other comrades who are active in campaigning on the health services in their locality. A sub-committee to deal with health policy questions has been established.

Among the other matters discussed by the Committee were pensions, the problems of retirement, the Graduated Sick and Unemployment Pay Scheme, the Plowden Report, the children's services, the care of pre-school children, the operation of the 1965 Rent Act, council rents, the homeless, the Housing Subsidies Bill and the hospital building programme. On these and other questions the Committee has been able to arrange for the preparation of materials for Party candidates in local elections and articles for our press. The Committee also made suggestions for those sections of the new draft of the *British Road to Socialism* covering social policy.

(c) Women's Advisory Committee

THE Committee has continued to meet regularly during this period. Two half-yearly national meetings were held, and one national conference attended by 258 delegates.

The Committee paid attention to a wide number of issues affecting women.

Some of the more important were equal pay, trades unionism amongst women, prices, peace, nursery education and medical services.

On these issues the committee has produced materials, helped develop policy and assisted in promotion of united action amongst women.

Gladys Easton, who had been Chairman of the Committee since 1961, had to relinquish this position in April 1967, owing to pressure of other commitments, and Rosemary Small was then appointed Chairman.

(d) Youth Advisory Committee

SINCE the last Congress the Youth Advisory Committee has met bi-monthly. William Alexander was Chairman until the beginning of 1966 when he was succeeded by Gordon McLennan.

The main aims of YAC work have been to advise the EC on questions concerning young people and to assist in the development of youth activities in the Party districts.

A National Youth Affairs Conference was held at the end of September 1965 on the subjects of (1) The position of young people in Britain today; and (2) Party help to the YCL.

Subjects discussed by the National Youth Affairs Committee over the period were Youth Employment Service; terms of reference for district Youth Affairs Committees; next steps in helping YCL; youth and the community; Young Liberals; students today; Socialist youth organisations; youth and the trade unions; youth and the *Morning Star*; youth conferences.

The Committee has also discussed at every meeting an aspect of the campaign to build the YCL launched by the joint meeting of the Party EC and YCL National Committee in May 1966.

The National Student Committee

The National Student Committee has met two or three times a term and assists the Executive Committee helping to develop the work of Communist students in universities, technical and art colleges, colleges of education, and other centres of full-time higher education. Material has been gathered through the committee for a weekly feature in the *Morning Star* since its inception.

The committee is represented at meetings of other student bodies, the two national students' unions, Labour and Liberal and United Nations Student Association conferences and other meetings. Joint posters or leaflets were issued by the committee along with the Labour and Liberal student organisation on Vietnam, Zimbabwe and higher education. The committee is one of a number of political and religious student bodies co-operating, with some youth organisations, in activity on Vietnam, through the "Youth for Peace in Vietnam" co-ordinating committee.

The Executive Committee approved a report from the committee in July 1966 which included as an underlying principle, the possibility and need for all Party organisations and especially district committees positively to promote our activity and influence in hundreds of colleges. In an increased number of districts there is now provision for regular district student consultation.

While we have branches in most universities and some other colleges there remain many large colleges where sustained attention by the Party would result in the formation of more new branches.

Mass action by students on issues they felt to be important reached an all-time record level in February this year with the National Day of Student Action, including strikes or boycotts in many places, in opposition to increased fees for overseas students. The committee has assisted the work of our members on this issue, in defence of LSE students, and on many less spectacular issues as well.

(e) Economic Committee

THE Committee has met regularly under its new Chairman, Bert Ramelson, and has set up a small steering committee for the better organisation of its business.

Apart from its monthly meetings, the Committee has now organised two successful weekend Discussion Conferences, and has announced a third. The first of these, in October 1965, dealt with "The economic policy of post-war Tory and Labour Governments", and the second, in October 1966, with "Attacking Britain's economic problems".

They have enabled members of the Committee to get together with other Party members particularly interested, and to some extent also with comrades not members of the Party.

The third conference in this series is being held in September 1967 on the general theme of "The advance to a socialist economy in Britain".

A particularly welcome feature of the 1966 conference was the presence of a member of the Economic Section of the French Communist Party, and it is hoped that this will be repeated this year.

The Committee was also closely associated with the one-day Discussion Conference, held in December 1966, on "Recent economic problems and changes in socialist countries".

The Committee was represented at the international conference on "State Monopoly Capitalism" convened by the French Communist Party in May 1966. Arrangements were made thereafter for the translation of a number of the major reports into English, and two of these were published, in *Marxism Today* and the *Economic Bulletin* respectively.

A definite improvement has at last been secured as regards the *Bulletin*. As from the beginning of 1967 regular publication has been secured, and this should be maintained consistently in future.

The preparation of an Annual Economic Report has continued to occupy much of the time of the Committee. An important feature of the work on this report during 1967 has been the attempt to elaborate a more coherent, overall alternative economic policy. This task will require a great deal of further attention in future.

The Common Market, inflation, price control, monopoly, and aid to the "developing" countries are among the particular topics discussed by the Committee during this period.

There has been a continued welcome strengthening of the membership of the Committee—particularly younger people—and this has been the essential basis on which the contribution that the Committee makes to the work of the Party has been enlarged.

(f) Cultural Committee

THE Committee, under the chairmanship of Brian Simon, has continued and extended its work since the last Congress. In addition to arranging regular discussions on important questions, it organised, under the auspices of *Marxism Today* a successful "Week of Marxist Discussion" in January 1966. This consisted mainly of dialogues between Marxists (Party and non-Party) and non-Marxists.

The Committee worked on the preparation of the material for the statement on *Questions of Ideology and Culture* which the Party EC adopted at its meeting in March 1967. The Committee has given very wide publicity to this statement among non-Party organisations, newspapers and journals, left and progressive individuals, Christians and Humanists.

An important development since early in 1966 has been the growth of the dialogue between Christians and Marxists. This took the form of contributions to *Marxism Today* (which are to be published as a book) during the course of which meetings with representatives of many Christian churches have been taking place. These have led to the arrangement of a weekend residential discussion at which fifteen representative Christians will meet a similar number of Party members with the Rev. Alan Ecclestone in the chair, in October. This, we hope, will result in the holding of public discussions in the near future.

Information from a number of districts indicates that the dialogue with the Christians and the interest of many Christians in Marxism are not confined to London and we can look forward to further developments here in the coming months.

The Committee has tried to keep in touch with district activities in the cultural and ideological fields. Jointly with the Organisation Department, it issued some notes for the consideration of district committees entitled "To enliven and enrich the work of the Party".

The Committee is preparing a number of one-day discussions in depth on important questions of our time.

(g) Science and Technology Committee

THE Committee has continued to meet quarterly under the Chairmanship of W. Wainwright.

After a very wide consultation a discussion statement on problems of fundamental research in Britain was published in *Marxism Today* in December 1966 and a document on automation, reviewing the state of its development in a number of spheres, was supplied to members of the Executive Committee.

These two major tasks occupied a large part of the time of the Committee throughout 1966 but a number of articles on questions ranging from disarmament and the

aircraft industry to the world population explosion were provided for *Comment*, in addition to items provided for the *Morning Star*.

As a result of a proposal for the publication of a series of short books on popular science themes the Committee assisted in finding writers to take up specific titles and so far seven titles are being prepared in this series.

An examination of the pharmaceutical industry was prepared for discussion by the Committee and this is now being used as the basis for a short book in the same series.

The Committee advised the EC on problems of research investment, and provided a document on fuel and power to assist the preparation of a policy statement on this question.

Discussions on water supply and North Sea gas provided material for articles in the *Morning Star* and a paper on water supply was made available to the Social Services Committee. Members of the Committee participated in the discussions during the preparation of the statement on *Questions of Ideology and Culture*.

In March 1967 the Committee had a review of the present stage of development of science and technology and as a result prepared a programme for its future work—listing over 20 items for the preparation of articles or documents. The two main questions selected for immediate attention were the examination of various aspects of the problem of the planning of science with a view to working for a broad conference on this question, and a consideration of problems associated with nutrition.

Proposals were also made for a Party event on scientific topics to be held during the 1967 meeting of the British Association.

5. DEPARTMENTS AT PARTY CENTRE

(a) Organisation Department

THE Department has been mainly concerned with matters relating to Party membership, organisation and campaigning, and the circulation of the *Morning Star*.

Visits to districts for individual discussions and participation in meetings of the district committees and branches have been a regular practice supplementing discussions with comrades coming to Party Centre. The practice has continued of holding a meeting of district secretaries and other full-time workers following each meeting of the Executive Committee.

The membership at the end of the card exchange period in 1966 was 491 lower than in February 1965, and this decline continued during 1966 with a further drop of 538 in the membership by October 1966. In the latter months of 1966 and January 1967 this trend was reversed and at the end of the card exchange in early February of this year the membership was 211 higher than the previous October.

A new series of discussions with district leaderships then took place, the winning of new members continued at a higher level than in the same months of 1966 and district committees adopted plans of activity, Party building and *Morning Star* sales to be achieved by the 30th National Congress.

The 29th National Congress instructed the EC to convene a National Conference to discuss factory branches and this was held on 11th/12th June 1966 attended by 236 delegates, 86 of whom came from 62 factory branches and 12 from the Executive Committee, Party Centre and *Morning Star*. The decision of the Conference to give increased assistance to existing factory branches and establish 50 new ones has received consistent attention in the period since the Conference with useful results, including the establishment of 22 new factory branches.

The Department has given continuous consideration to the proposals of the Committee on Party Organisation, applying the recommendations of the Committee where possible.

Attention has been given to the training and development of leading comrades.

In co-operation with the Education Department weekend and day schools have been held for branch officials, candidates and industrial comrades.

The majority of branch officials in some districts have now been to such schools, while in others there is a less satisfactory situation.

Two themes on "Unity" have been produced for branch discussion, and a document on the development of cultural activity at district and branch level was sent to all districts with sufficient copies for every branch.

The Department has continued to be responsible for the financial work of the Party with a member of the Department being appointed as National Treasurer following the decision of the last Congress.

With the continued increase in costs, including the imposition of Selective Employment Tax, very close attention to all aspects of finance at Party Centre and in the districts has been necessary.

Particular attention has been given to the need to improve dues purchases and an overall national improvement of 9% was recorded at the end of the first quarter of 1967 compared with the previous year.

Various collecting materials have been supplied to districts, both for general collections and in connection with electoral activity, including the £45,000 fund appeal which enabled the Party to finance its 57 candidates in the 1966 General Election.

The Party's boat trip to the Soviet Union in connection with the 50th Anniversary celebrations was organised by the National Treasurer.

The Department has assisted in resolving staffing problems in various districts and where new district secretaries have been appointed has endeavoured to give these comrades extra assistance.

(b) Industrial Department

SINCE the last Congress, the attack on the trade union movement and the wage and salary earners' living standards was greatly stepped up by the Government, with relentless pursuit of its anti-trade union and wage freeze policies.

This Department was therefore greatly concerned to help the Party to mobilise the labour movement to resist these attacks and to go on the counter offensive.

It has produced considerable material to help the Party to do this job.

It is difficult to enumerate all that was done in this respect, but of particular significance was:

1. The preparation of a comprehensive document which was submitted on behalf of the Party to the Royal Commission of Trade Unions, in which the Party's attitude to the Government's economic policy, incomes policy, trade union problems, etc., was outlined in considerable detail. This document, judged by the demand for it—necessitating several printings—must have been found very useful by leading members in the Party, as well as by numerous labour movement organisations which wrote in for copies.
2. Publication of a pamphlet, *Incomes Policy—The Great Wage Freeze Trick*, by Bert Ramelson, was published and, again, to judge from the sales, was very well received.
3. A duplicated pamphlet, *What Socialism Offers Key People*, was published for sale to supervisory and administrative workers. The cost of this pamphlet was partly financed by donations, which included a number of non-Party workers in this field.
4. *We want 40—The Case for the Seamen*, by Jack Coward, was another pamphlet published, which described the seamen's strike, analysed it and drew important lessons for the movement as a result of the experiences of the strike.

During the seamen's strike, this Department helped to produce material about the strike which was a factor in mobilising solidarity and support for the seamen in this bitter struggle against the employers and the Government. It was this successful mobilisation and support for the seamen which aroused the wrath of Mr. Wilson so that he attacked the Party in general and the Industrial Department in particular.

This Department also produced considerable material in the form of speakers' notes, articles in the Party press and publications, analysing at each stage the significance of the actions taken by the Government and the TUC, with regard to incomes policy and the Prices and Incomes Act.

The production of such material helped to mobilise support for the successful series of national lobbies and conference against the Prices and Incomes Act and a large number of meetings, conferences, and marches on the same issue at regional or district level.

The Department also helped in the production of a pamphlet on the Common Market.

Since our last Congress, there has been an increasing number of weekend schools on industrial subjects involving leading comrades in industry and numbers of meetings in connection with the publications listed above, for which the Department contributed speakers and tutors.

With the development of a critical situation in the Co-operative movement, the Department helped to prepare a policy statement which was endorsed for publication by the EC.

The Department organised discussions which led to the preparation of policy discussion statements on fuel and energy, shipbuilding, and motors.

(c) Press and Publicity Department

Publications: Since last Congress, we have published 21 pamphlets with a total print of 174,500, and 4 broadsheets with a total print of 2,516,452.

In addition we issued 10 folders with a print of 1,372,250 and 19 leaflets with a print of 2,300,000.

The broadsheets were all published in connection with the General Election and local elections. The folders dealt with varied subjects including education, the future of Nato, the incomes policy. Two of the folders put the case for the Communist Party, another set out a programme for the left. We also produced a special folder on the importance of extending sales of Party literature. Subjects covered by the leaflets included, the National Plan, Vietnam, a policy to solve Britain's crisis, unemployment.

We produced 11 sets of posters with a print of 23,815 covering many aspects of Party policy.

We issued 14 sets of Information for Speakers. This was a smaller number than in the comparable previous period, largely because the material which we would have put out in the form of speakers' information was put into *Comment* to make it more widely available.

Meetings: We supplied national speakers for 200 meetings and advertised a further 426 meetings with local speakers. We also supplied many speakers to other organisations of all kinds. We have continued to help the districts with the national speakers' fares pool.

In addition to requests for speakers we have received and dealt with hundreds of letters asking for information of one kind or another about the Party, its activities and policies.

General Election: For this General Election we produced our Manifesto in pamphlet form. This was sold on bookstalls as well as by the Party organisations. In addition to the broadsheet and posters, we also made and produced a film for television and a radio script. This was our first Party political broadcast on television. In spite of it being only five minutes long and put out at a non-peak viewing hour we received letters from many parts of the country from Party and non-Party people in appreciation of the film and the policy that was advanced. The Party's election campaign on this occasion received rather better treatment in the press though this was still very inadequate.

Summer Tour: Our contribution to the Party National Summer Tour was the production of the folder: *Change Britain with Communist Ideas*, a set of four special posters and the equipping and decorating of the van which formed the centrepiece of the tour.

Comment: Very great efforts have been made to maintain a good standard for the journal both in content and lay-out. It is remarkable that the journal comes out regularly with only one full-time worker producing it, with the assistance of a small editorial committee from our Department.

In the recent period the Editor has received many letters and views showing that the journal plays an important part in the Party and is regarded by a great many of our members as necessary and useful in their work.

Unfortunately during the last period we have had no full-time worker promoting literature sales; and this, together with the increase in price has resulted in a falling circulation. Special efforts are being made to check this, including visits by the Editor to all districts of the Party and discussions with Party branches, together with further attention to improve the content and presentation of the journal so that it gives the best possible service to the Party.

(d) Education Department

THE 29th Congress passed a special resolution on Marxist-Leninist education calling for "much more attention throughout the whole Party—from top to bottom" to our education work.

Since then our efforts have been directed towards carrying out the main lines of this resolution and of the annual education plans (1966/67; 1967/68) adopted by the Executive Committee.

Members of the Department have visited nearly every district in the Party with the aim of assisting them to carry through the plans in their districts.

The position with regard to education in the Party is rather mixed. In some districts significant advances have been made (North-East, Yorkshire, East Midlands); in most others, especially in the biggest districts (Lancashire, London, Wales, Scotland) the work leaves much to be desired.

Weekend and day schools for branch officials, electoral workers, industrial comrades have continued although the number of such schools being organised is tending to decline. 77 such schools, attended by 1,416 comrades, have been held since the last Congress.

A most welcome advance is to be seen in the organisation of day and weekend schools for women comrades in a large number of districts.

A further big advance is the appointment of a national education organiser for the YCL and the beginnings of important progress in education in the League, reflected in a growing number of YCL weekend schools and branch classes.

The national week's schools have likewise continued to be held although finance and other difficulties have resulted in the numbers tending to be small. 11 such schools catering for branch secretaries, YCL members, women, students, etc., attended by 195 comrades have been held since the last Congress.

In addition, two 3-day schools for industrial comrades, covering West of England and Wales, and London and southern districts have been held attended by 30.

Two holiday schools attended by 80 comrades have also been held since the last Congress.

The main weakness is in the organisation of branch education classes. These still only involve a small minority of our branches and members. The education plan for the school year September 1967/September 1968 is devoted mainly to overcoming this cardinal weakness.

The overall problem affecting education work in particular, is the attitude, still too deeply entrenched, of sacrificing education work to the needs of our practical political activity. Leadership, at all levels in our Party, is called upon to fight against this self-defeating approach.

Syllabuses for branch education issued since the last Congress were: "British Capitalism Today" and "The Communist Party, the Labour Government and the Way Forward". The latter syllabus was fairly well utilised.

To meet the growing demand, especially from new members, for assistance in reading Marxist literature, we produced *A Reader's Guide to the Study of Marxism*.

(e) Women's Department

THE Department has been responsible for arranging the work of the Women's Advisory Committee, organising its monthly meetings, half-yearly meetings and the annual conference.

The Department has co-operated with the Press and Publicity department on the production of materials for women, with the industrial department on questions affecting working women, with the education department in the arrangement of a national women's school, and has provided material on questions affecting women for the Party press.

(f) International Department

IN the past two years the work of the department has been extremely varied in character, even more so than usual. The campaign against United States aggression in Vietnam has occupied much attention, and the Department has assisted in preparing materials for the campaign and in initiating activities, as well as supporting those of other bodies campaigning against the Government's support for the U.S. aggression.

On developments in Africa, the main activity has been centred against the Government's appeasement of white settler minority rule in Rhodesia, against the

apartheid system in South Africa, and the military coup in Ghana. Full support has been given to all organisations campaigning on these questions; and fraternal relations have been maintained with the exiled leaders in Britain of the liberation movements in these countries.

The Department has been very much concerned with the campaign against the military coup in Greece. The protest movement in Britain has been considerable, with resolutions demanding the release of the political prisoners and the restoration of democratic rule, from wide sections of the labour and progressive movement. This campaign has been a major factor in securing the release of Betty Ambatielos.

Much of the Department's work in recent months has been in connection with the crisis in the Middle East, and the campaign to undo the results of the aggression launched against Arab states by the Israeli forces. Special materials have been prepared for the *Morning Star*, and a special issue of *Comment* prepared. In addition, a number of Party and public meetings were addressed.

The fight against racialism in Britain has been a constant feature in the work of the Department, and full support has been given to the activity of various anti-racialist organisations. Many articles on this subject have appeared in the *Morning Star* and in our weekly and monthly journals. The question of amendments to the Race Relations Act has been taken up with the Government. A Race Relations Committee of leading comrades associated with the campaign against racialism has now been set up.

Scores of articles on international questions have appeared in the *Morning Star*, *Comment*, *Marxism Today*, *World Marxist Review* and the *Labour Monthly*, apart from articles written for foreign newspapers and journals.

The Department has co-operated with the Education Department in organising the annual national school on "Problems of Imperialism", in participation in other schools, and in giving lectures and taking classes in the districts.

Since 1966, the Department has been issuing a regular International Affairs Bulletin every two months. Issues published in this period have dealt with investments in Kenya, the Commonwealth, the Ghana coup, the United Arab Republic, the Caribbean, the French Elections of 1967, and Trade and Aid.

(g) Electoral Department

THE Electoral Department, established by the EC in January 1966, has devoted its attention to the preparations for the various Parliamentary and local elections held since. In the General Election of March 1966 we contested 57 constituencies and obtained an aggregate vote of 62,112. The individual votes of our candidates were:

<i>Constituency</i>	<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>% Poll</i>
Aberavon	Dr. J. T. Hart	1,620	3.6
Aberdare	Dr. A. T. M. Wilson	2,305	6.4
Aberdeen N.	Mrs. M. Rose	719	1.7
Battersea N.	Mrs. G. M. Easton	650	3.0
Birkenhead	B. Williams	604	1.5
Birmingham—Northfield	D. Robinson	1,029	1.6
—Small Heath	G. Jelf	477	1.8
—Stechford	W. Dunn	998	2.6
Bothwell	T. Woods	1,209	2.7
Bristol N.W.	B. Underwood	595	1.2
Coventry East	H. Bourne	1,368	2.3
Dagenham	G. Wake	1,373	2.9
Dunbartonshire E.	J. Reid	1,548	2.4
Dundee W.	D. P. Bowman	1,217	2.4
Eccles	M. R. Bennett	1,239	2.9
Edinburgh—Leith	Miss H. Arundel	279	1.0
Erith and Crayford	L. Smith	556	1.3
Fife West	A. D. MacMillan	1,542	3.6
Fulham	P. Robson	256	0.7
Glasgow—Gorbals	Mrs. M. A. Hunter	819	4.1
—Govan	G. McLennan	1,103	4.0
—Provan	J. Jackson	988	2.3
—Scotstoun	H. D. Boyd	2,395	5.4
—Springburn	N. McLellan	867	3.7
Goole	W. Carr	952	2.3

Greenock	..	..	W. Dunn	702	2.1
Hayes and Harlington	..	..	F. Stanley	698	2.1
Hornsey	..	..	M. Morris	1,184	2.5
Islington S.W.	..	..	J. Moss	756	3.0
Leeds S.	..	..	B. Ramelson	714	2.1
Liverpool—Scotland	..	..	T. E. Cassin	779	3.9
Llanelli	..	..	R. E. Hitchon	1,211	2.6
Luton	..	..	Dr. A. P. J. Chater	586	1.2
Manchester—Openshaw	..	..	E. Marsden	1,479	4.3
Mansfield	..	..	F. C. Westacott	590	1.3
Mitcham	..	..	S. E. French	580	1.1
Motherwell	..	..	J. W. Sneddon	1,508	4.0
Neath	..	..	J. J. David	1,632	4.1
Newcastle Central	..	..	T. G. Welch	404	1.6
Nottingham North	..	..	J. H. Peck	1,070	2.1
Pontypool	..	..	W. E. Jones	897	2.5
Rhondda East	..	..	Mrs. A. Powell	2,349	8.4
West	..	..	A. True	1,853	7.4
St. Pancras N.	..	..	J. Nicolson	1,253	3.8
Sheffield—Brightside	..	..	H. Hill	989	2.8
—Park	..	..	C. Morton	1,022	3.3
Southwark	..	..	S. P. Bent	1,404	4.7
Stepney	..	..	S. Kaye	2,209	7.3
Stirling and Falkirk	..	..	P. McIntosh	767	1.7
Stockton-on-Tees	..	..	E. Jones	710	1.8
Stoke Newington and Hackney North	..	..	M. Goldman	1,491	4.1
Stoke-on-Trent South	..	..	S. J. Lomas	2,262	5.1
Swansea East	..	..	W. R. Jones	902	2.2
Swindon	..	..	I. Gradwell	838	2.0
West Lothian	..	..	Mrs. I. Swan	567	1.1
Wigan	..	..	M. Weaver	858	2.2
Willesden West	..	..	L. G. Burt	1,140	3.1

On March 9th 1967 we contested two Parliamentary by-elections and our votes were:

Constituency		Candidate	Vote	% Poll
Rhondda West	..	A. True	1,728	6.8
Pollok	..	A. Murray	694	1.8

In the 1966 local council elections there were 398 Communist candidates of whom three were successful and the aggregate vote was 61,000.

In the 1967 elections for all county, borough and most district and parish councils there were 590 Communist candidates contesting in the 32 Greater London Boroughs, 22 of the county council electoral divisions and 480 wards. 28 candidates were elected—a net gain of six, and the aggregate vote, counting only the highest vote where there was more than one Communist standing or where the same area was contested for more than one council, was 168,000. Two additional seats were won in by-elections in June.

We now hold 37 seats on county borough and district councils. In addition, we hold several seats on parish councils.

The Jersey comrades were assisted in the preparations for the States elections in December 1966 in which Norman le Brocq was elected and Stella Perkins increased the Communist vote in a second district.

The Department prepared a guide *How the Councils Work* for use in schools and branch discussions. Five hundred copies were sold and it is intended to reissue it in the light of experience. It has also arranged articles on our election experiences and activities for the Party press.

The Department has worked with the Press and Publicity Department in the preparation of materials for the various elections and with the Education Department in the organisation of schools for candidates and election workers; in the period under review 389 comrades attended these schools. The National Agent has visited a number of districts for discussions on the development of our electoral work and spoken at conferences of candidates, agents and other election workers.

The National Agent gave oral evidence to the Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform in which he outlined our views on political broadcasting. The statement received considerable publicity in the press and television. The subsequent report of Mr. Speaker to the Prime Minister included criticisms of the existing arrangements which correspond to our own criticisms.

A small Electoral Sub-Committee has been established. It meets bi-monthly, discusses our election campaigns and makes preparations for forthcoming elections.

6. THE YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

AT the 26th Congress of the YCL, held in May 1967, the membership was 5,842 compared with 5,101 at the 25th Congress. The Congress was attended by 415 full delegates, 30 consultative and fraternal delegates and 14 observers from the Young Liberals, YCND, United Nations Youth, British Youth Council and a number of others.

The circulation of *Challenge* averaged 11,000 from Congress to Congress.

The main lines of work laid down by the Congress were: unity, Vietnam, wage freeze, youth rights, as well as the strengthening of the organisation of the League.

The League has taken an active part in the work of the "Youth for Peace in Vietnam" movement.

It has also played an important part in other movements for peace, in solidarity action with oppressed peoples, against the wage freeze and on other questions.

The League and Party held a joint campaign to increase membership and establish new branches of the YCL. Special material was produced, joint rallies were held and two full-time field workers were employed.

7. MORNING STAR

AT full discussion in the Party and the paper, special meetings of the People's Press Printing Society endorsed the proposal to change the name of the *Daily Worker* to the *Morning Star*, and on Monday, 25th April, 1966, the first issue of the larger paper was published.

It was clear from the outset that a circulation increase of 10,000 copies daily would be needed to sustain the larger paper, and that the *Morning Star* would be drawing upon its reserves till this increase was obtained. The downward trend of circulation was halted and a modest increase in readership was achieved. The increase, however, fell very much short of target, and the shareholders of the People's Press Printing Society were warned, at its Annual General Meeting held in May 1967, that unless a further increase could be made, the Management Committee would be compelled by the end of this year to consider either a price increase or going back to a smaller paper.

Our paper has maintained throughout the period a strong and consistent line on all major political issues, foreign and domestic. At home it has campaigned strongly against the Government's economic policy as a whole, and in particular has sought to reflect the growing opposition to the Prices and Incomes Policy. On the international front, it has voiced the mounting opposition to the bloody and aggressive war waged by US imperialism against the Vietnamese people, and the support accorded to US aggression by the Labour Government.

Its columns have been open at all times to the labour and trade union movement and it is good to note the increasing number of articles and interviews from Labour MPs, trade union and co-operative leaders it has been able to publish in recent months.

The *Sunday Citizen*, the *Morning Star*, *Tribune* and two Labour MPs jointly organised a successful Teach-In on the press crisis held in London on April 19th, 1967. The three labour movement papers issued a joint public statement giving their proposals for halting the danger of press monopoly and called for Government action to help to sustain the remaining independent papers.

The Co-operative Press announcement that it would cease publication of the *Sunday Citizen* after June 18th, 1967, has served to focus attention on the vital role of our paper and the need for increasing support from the Communist Party and from all working class organisations in its fight.

8. PUBLICATIONS FROM AUGUST 1965

Pamphlets

The Role of the Communist Party (reprint)	..	..	..	..	1/3
Report from Vietnam	..	..	..	..	6d
Racialism: Cause or Cure	..	..	..	..	9d
Hands Off the Trade Unions	..	..	..	..	9d
Wm. Gallacher: A Great Working Class Leader	..	..	..	..	1/6
International Communist Movement	..	..	..	..	2/6
Turn Left for Progress (J. Gollan's Report)	..	..	..	..	1/-
Changing Britain—The Need for the Communist Party	..	..	..	..	1/-
29th National Congress Report	..	..	..	..	5/-
New Britain—People's Britain (1966 General Election Manifesto)	..	..	..	..	6d
Incomes Policy—The Great Wage Freeze Trick	..	..	..	..	1/-
We Want 40 . . . the case for the seamen	..	..	..	..	6d
Vietnam—Stop America's Criminal War	..	..	..	..	1/-
Keep Out of the Common Market	..	..	..	..	1/-
A Reader's Guide to the Study of Marxism	..	..	..	..	7/6
Whither China ?	..	..	..	..	2/6
Questions of Ideology and Culture	..	..	..	..	6d
Background to the Middle East Crisis	..	..	..	..	6d

Broadsheets

- Put New Life Into the Councils
- Go One Better! Vote Communist
- Why You Should Vote Communist (Municipal Election Broadsheet, 1967)
- Why Not the Best for Wales ? (Welsh Municipal Election Broadsheet, 1967)

Folders

- Literature Folder
- Education in Our Hands
- Turn Left for Progress
- A Letter to Every Communist
- The Future of Nato
- The Communists Propose the Alternative to the Freeze
- A New Situation
- To Every New Member (reprint)
- This is the Party for You
- Change Britain With Communist Ideas

Leaflets

- Make Believe Plan
- Join the Communist Party
- Britain Today and Tomorrow
- The International Communist Movement (February 27, 1965, E.C.)
- 29th National Congress—Letter to Branch Secretaries
- 1966—Make It a Year of Advance
- End the U.S. War in Vietnam
- Vietnam: Raise Your Voice
- The Prime Minister, the Communists and the Trade Unions
- A Policy to Solve the Crisis
- The Communist Party Says, etc. (Recruiting leaflet)
- Calling All Housewives
- 575,000 Unemployed
- Stop the Bombing of North Vietnam
- Keep Out of the Common Market
- Join the Communist Party (for students)
- Your Wage Packet and the Council Elections
- Socialism in the Sixties
- The Middle East—What Next ?
- Calling All Women

Posters

End America's War on Vietnam
Comment
Britain Today & Tomorrow (Week of Marxist Discussion)
Stop U.S. Bombing of North Vietnam
Wilson! Stop Backing U.S. War on Vietnam
U.S. War on Vietnam Threatens World Peace
U.S. Get Out of Vietnam
Stop Backing U.S. War in Vietnam
Cut Profits—Cut Prices
Cut the Arms Bill. More for Homes and Schools
Stop the Legal Attack on Trade Unions
Incomes Policy Out! Wages Up!
Go One Better! Vote Communist
Must Millions Die Before Wilson Condemns U.S.?
Vietnam—Tell Wilson We don't Back America's War
Vietnam—U.S. Get Out! Get Out! Get Out!
Go One Better—Vote Communist
Fight the Wage Freeze. Join the Communist Party
End America's War on Vietnam. Join the Communist Party.
Socialism in the Sixties
Communist Party National Tour
Keep Out of the Common Market
Wilson Condemn U.S. War on Vietnam
Increase Wages—Freeze Prices and Profits
Britain Needs Socialist Change

9. REPORT OF APPEALS COMMITTEE

THIS Committee has met three times during this period. It has considered five appeals against expulsion. In each of these cases the Committee recommended rejection of the appeal, and these recommendations were accepted by the Executive Committee.

All appellants were then informed of their right of appeal to the National Congress, and three have announced their intention of exercising this right.

J. HOSTETTLER, *Chairman*
B. AINLEY
W. COWE
W. PARKHOUSE
MARIAN RAMELSON
T. RAMPLING
A. WILSON

10. OBITUARY

In the two years since the issue of our last report we have lost many members who were outstanding figures in the history of our Party. After the last report was printed, but before the last Congress, William Gallacher died and was mourned throughout the world, but particularly in his home town of Paisley where at his funeral crowds thronged the streets to pay homage to him. A tribute to his memory was paid at our Congress as one of the outstanding leaders of our Party.

In this period too we have lost Johnnie Betteridge, known to thousands of Londoners as Parliamentary candidate and public spokesman for the Party; Claude Berridge, national trade union figure and foundation member, and for many years chairman of our London District Committee; David Burke, long-standing member of our Party and well-known trade union figure; Molly Campbell, foundation member, who died after a long period of failing health; Jim David, leading Welsh miner, member of our Executive Committee, lost in a tragic accident; Dennis Goodwin, industrial organiser of the London Party with a long record of service in the leadership of the London District; Wal Hannington, foundation member and national figure in the British Labour movement since the unemployed struggles in the period between the wars; George Hardy, foundation member with an outstanding record of

service in leading positions in our Party and in his work in the international working class movement; Bill Joss, veteran Scottish Communist who inspired, trained and educated several generations of leading comrades in Scotland; Mollie Mandell, with a long record of responsibility in our Party and interest and work in international affairs; Bob McIlhone, foundation member with a long record of service in Scotland and in national responsibilities; Leo McGree, an outstanding figure in the British trade union movement and former member of our Executive Committee; and Alex Waterman, a much respected figure in London Jewish organisations and a long-standing member of our Party.

In this period too we have lost many other devoted members whose duties did not bring them into public prominence, but who gave loyal service to our Party's cause.

II. MAIN STATEMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND POLITICAL COMMITTEE

1966

January	8-9th	Soviet Jewry
January	9th	Change of Name of <i>Daily Worker</i>
January	11th	Hands Off the Trade Unions
April	1st	General Election Result
April	12th	<i>Morning Star</i>
April	19th	Seamen's Strike
April	21st	U.S. Defence Minister McNamara's Visit
May	23rd	Seamen's Strike—Declaration of State of Emergency
May	24th	Jews in the Soviet Union
June	6th	Future of Nato
June	29th	Vietnam: American Bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong
July	9th	The Prime Minister, the Communists, and the Trade Unions
July	20th	Wilson's Economic Statement
August	4th	Support for Rebel M.P.s
August	12th	Prices & Incomes Act
August	18th	Comment on Prime Minister's Reply to Our Letter of July 9th
September	11th	Government Freeze and Squeeze Policy
September	11th	China
September	15th	Help Car Workers' Fight
October	20th	October Unemployment Figures
November	13th	Common Market
December	8th	Rhodesia
December	29th	American Bombing of Hanoi

1967

January	8th	Free Press
January	15th	International Situation
January	17th	<i>Morning Star</i>
February	9th	Vietnam
March	15th	Problems and Opportunities of the Co-operative Movement
April	6th	Aden
April	27th	Questions of Ideology and Culture
May	4th	Common Market
June	16th	Middle East
June	30th	Aden

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FROM 1 JANUARY 1965 TO 31 DECEMBER 1966

	INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Membership				
Cards and Dues Stamps	21,880	Central Office Expenses	41,107
Less Transferred to Election Fund	3,894	Wages and National Insurance	...
		<hr/>	Furniture, Equipment and Office Maintenance	...
Contributions to General Fund			Stationery	...
Weekly Quotas to Centre raised by Districts and Branches by regular guarantees	7,836	Postage, Telephones and Telegrams	...
Donations, "Into Action" Fund, etc.	41,588	Rent, Rates, Light and Heat, Insurance	...
Public Meetings and Events				
Net Income	1,445	Committee Expenses	4,223
Sales of Literature, Campaign and Organisational Material	28,206	Executive Committee Fares and Expenses, and other National Committee Expenses	...
Sundry Receipts	1,600	Subscriptions and Donations	...
Transferred from Central Election Fund	19,062	Printing	...
Excess of Expenditure over Income	<hr/> 117,723	Literature, Campaign and Organisational Material	52,383
		<hr/> 4,568	Travelling and other Departmental Charges	...
		<hr/> <hr/> £122,291	Congress (1965) and Conferences	...
				567
				<hr/> £122,291

Report of the Auditors

We have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers and certify that it is correct.

L. DUNSTAN
T. AHERN

Auditors

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